LODI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Incorporated October 20, 1988

LODI HISTORIAN

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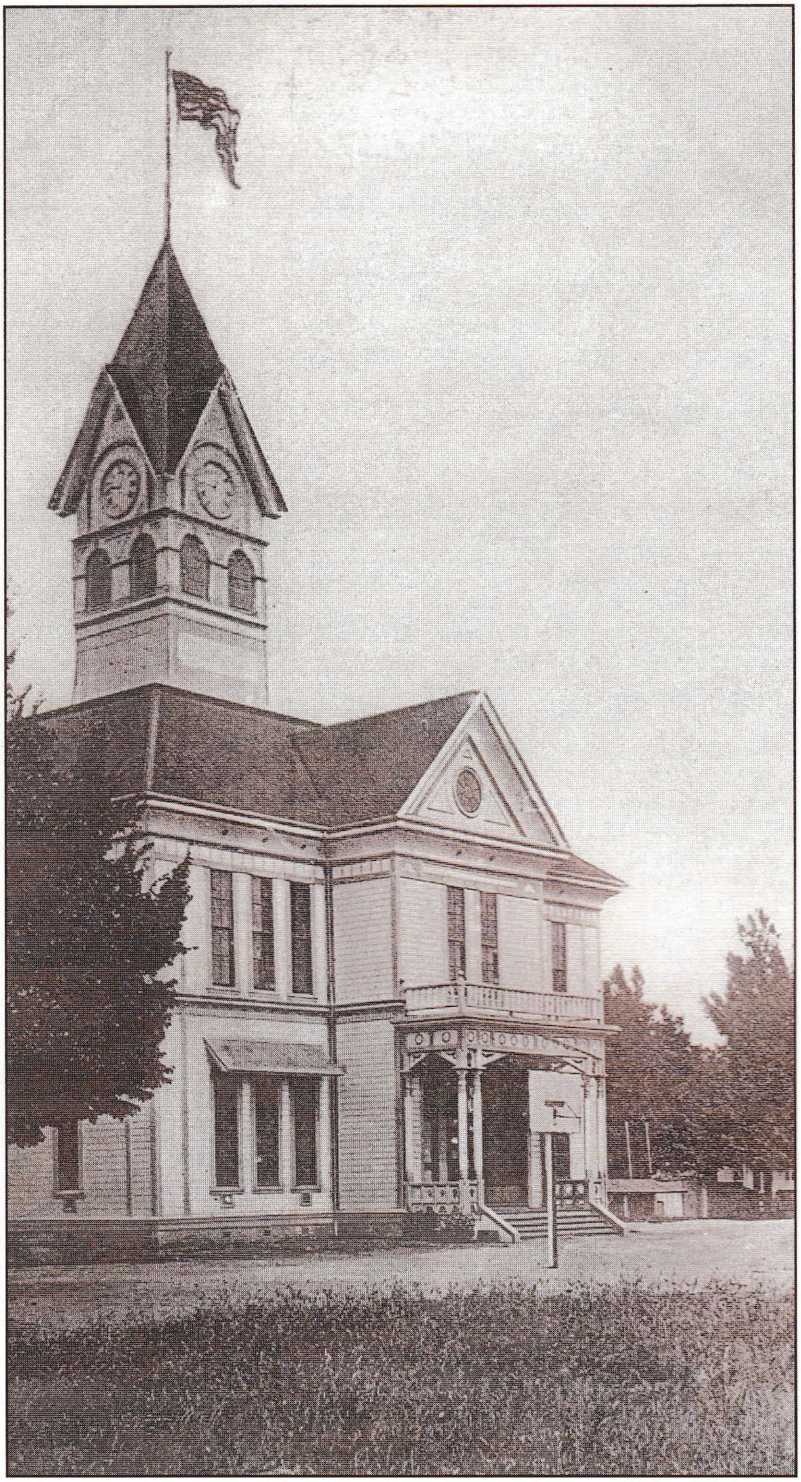


▲ *Salem Grammar School, built in 1883 in Lodi, California.*

LODI GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

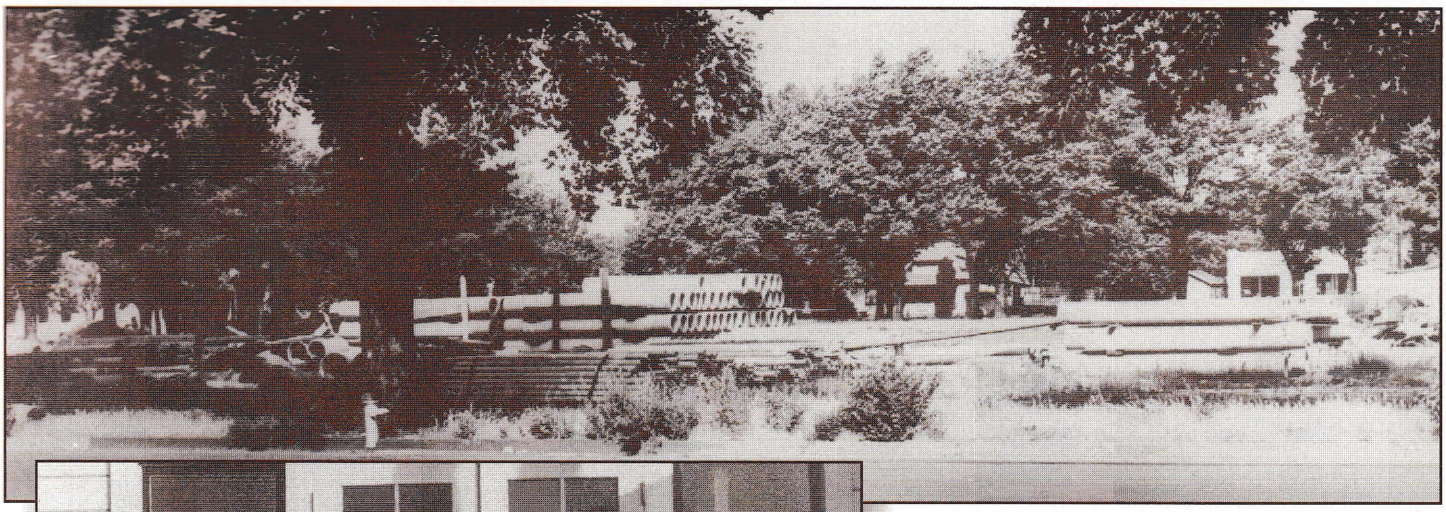
By Ralph Lea and Janice Roth

Schools were established in the Lodi area before there was an official town. The first school in the area was Salem Grammar School. It was built on the south side of the Mokelumne River and east of Cherokee Lane in 1859. Three years later the school house was moved south on Cherokee a mile and a half to property owned by Mr. Barnhart. In 1868, the building was moved again to what would become the town of Mokelumne (the future Lodi). Salem school was located just northeast corner of Sargent Road (now Lodi Ave.) and Stockton Street. This is the same spot where a new two story school was built in 1872. A larger version was built in 1883, and was Lodi's only grammar school until 1907, when a new two story school, Emerson, was built on the west side of Lodi, south of Elm Street and west of Hutchins.

SALEM SCHOOL

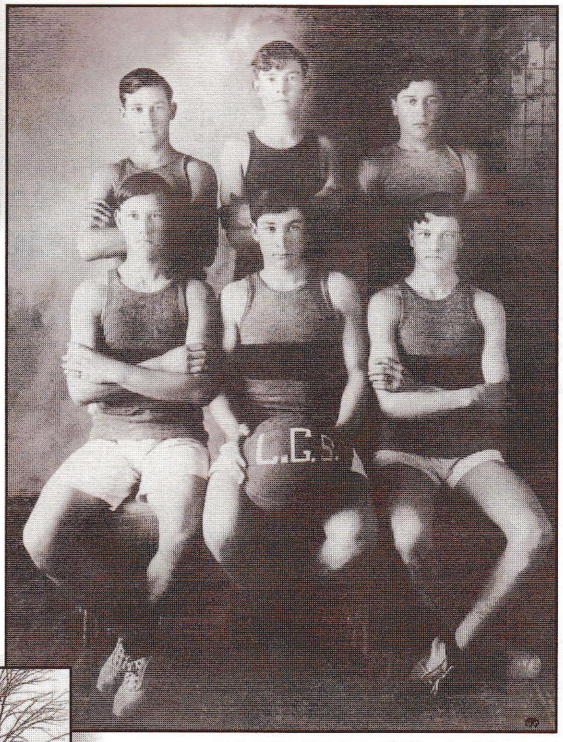
▲ *Salem School Girls. Back row, l to r: Neta Williams, Unknown, Carrie Ivory, Unknown, Alma Tindal, Unknown, and Rebecca Kettelman. Front row, l to r: First four unknown, Ella Tindell, Florence (Huffman) Sinks, Daisy Pleas and Clara Kettelman.*

▲ *Salem School, 1908-09. Top row, teacher unknown. Fourth row, l to r: Lena Graffigna, Bullock, Alma Pope, Unknown, Ware, Unknown, Unknown. Third row, l to r: Nellie Griffith, Bender, Francis Ellis, George LeFieber, Granados, Gladys McAffee, Unknown. Second row, l to r: Unknown, Duro, H. McMurtry, Unknown, Emil Mouf, Carl Guggolz, Joe Sturla. First row, l to r: Everett McKenzie, Earl Gaines, Joe Boyd, Neal Shank and Cecil Green.*

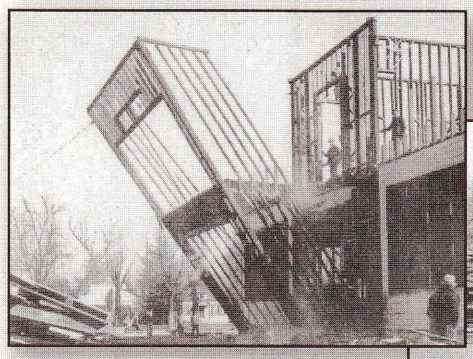


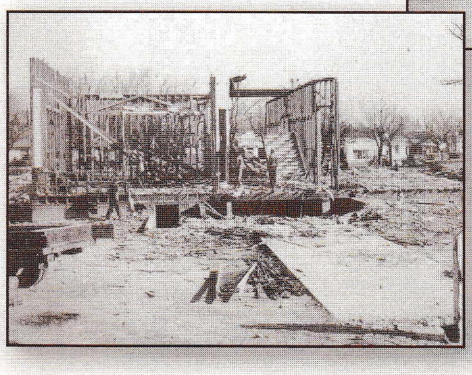
Salem School Grounds on Stockton Street; later used for storage by the City of Lodi until the Safeway Store was built.. ▲

◀ *Play cast for the Christmas Play at Salem School, 1936-37. Front row, l to r: Lois Meeske, Dick Crete, Dennis Riggle, Ed Grigsby, and Marjean Fisher. 2nd row, l to r: Jim Limbaugh, Marion Posey, Adelle Wahl, Phillip Crosby, Marjorie MacAulay and George Werner. Back row, l to r: Vaughn Buckmaster, Valerie Nichols, Don Crosby, James Pinkerton, Adeline Swegle and Bob Nies.*



Feb. 28, 1914, Lodi Grade School (Emerson), 8th grade. Ed Atwood at far left, back row; Ambrose Huberly, far left, front row. ▲

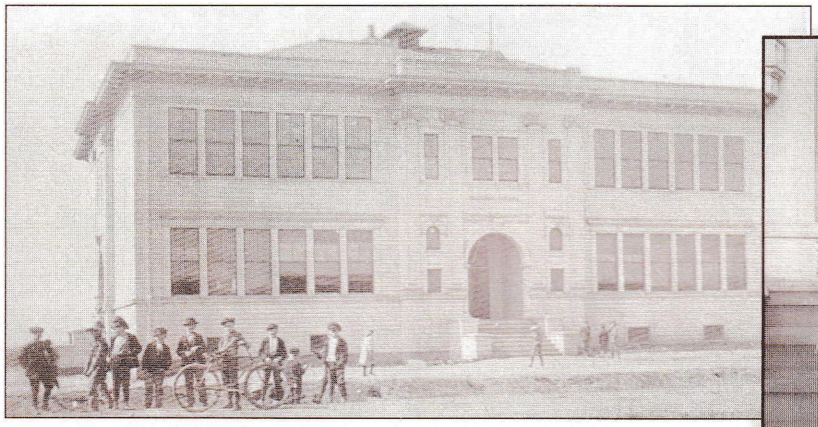




◀ *The tearing down of old Salem School.*

EMERSON SCHOOL

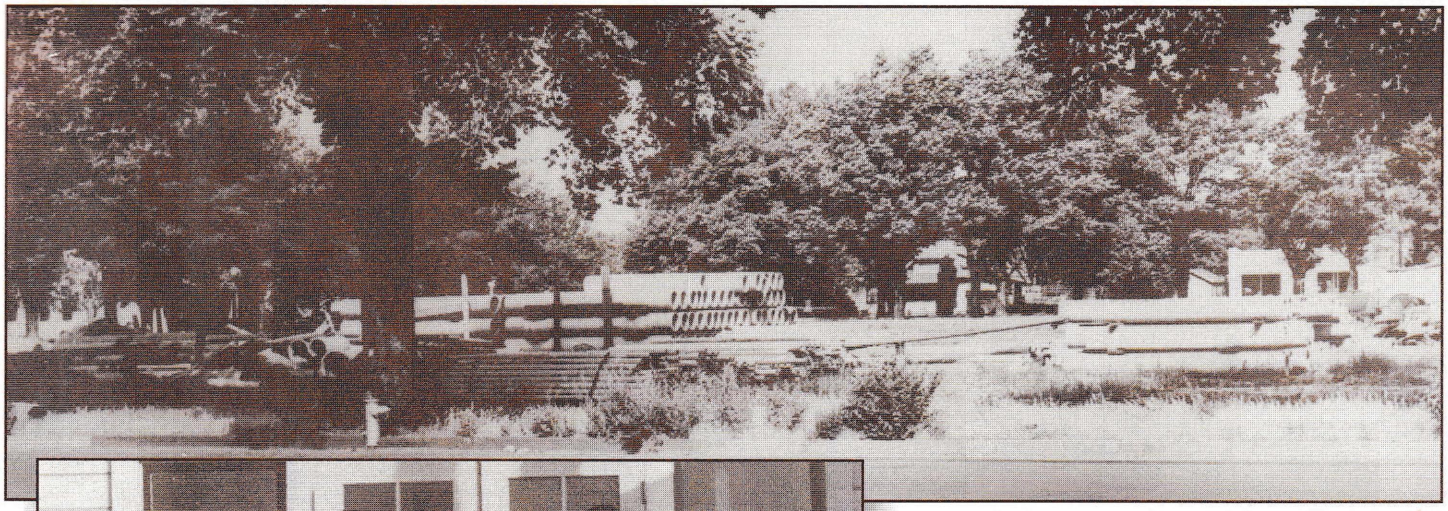
The overcrowding problem at Salem was solved with the construction of Emerson School, plus Lodi now had a school on the west side of the incorporated town. Contractor W. A. Young built the new building for under $13,000. The school site is now the home of a neighborhood park, Emerson Park.



▲ *Emerson School in Lodi.*

Emerson School, 1st Grade. ▶

▲ *The third grade class at Emerson School, located on N. Hutchins Street at the corner of Hutchins and Elm streets. Miss Nellie Inglis, teacher during 1909-1910. Students: Starting at left aisle, front to rear: Herbert Kreis, Pleas Ryan, Edna Nunn, Harriet Prentice and Allen Atkinson. 2nd aisle: Dewly Mole, Gladys Brown, Delcia Squires, Julie Herndon, Lester Tarbell, Hattie or Mattie Leach (twin) and Emilia Eberhardt. 3rd aisle: Truman Coblentz, Lucy Black, Helen Hatton, Vernon Steele, Claire Buckingham, Ralph Allen, Rosetta Pearson and Maurice Hill. 4th aisle: Aileen Spink, Wilma Clark, Annie Bauer, Harold Adams, Marion Schu, Mattie or Hattie Leach (twin) and Tillie Ulmer. 5th aisle: Eddie Fugazi, Dorothy Willms, Gustave Durham, Marguerite Soucie, Stellie Frey, Aloma Smith, George Murphy and Edith Petty.*



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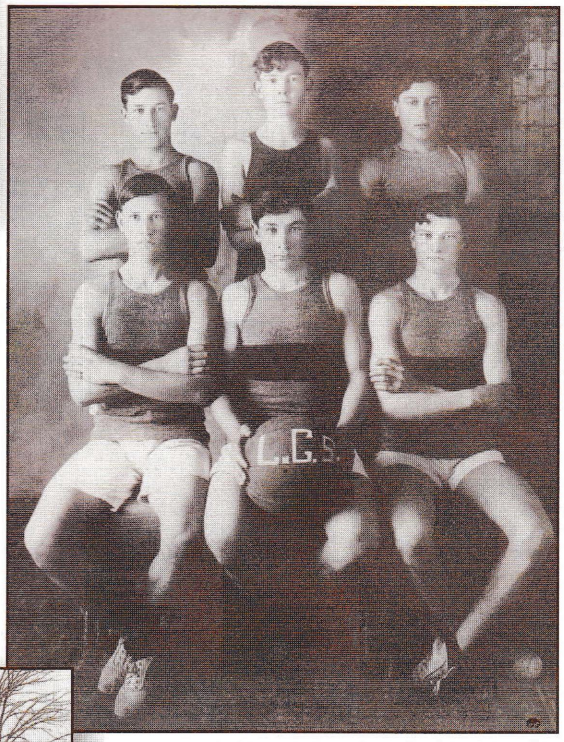

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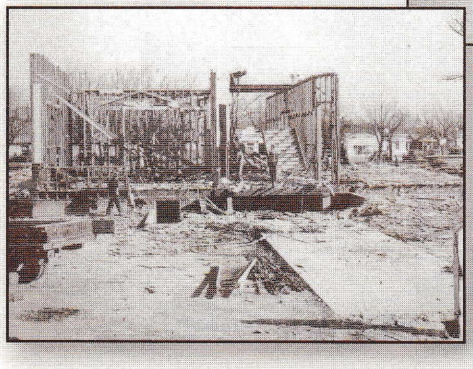

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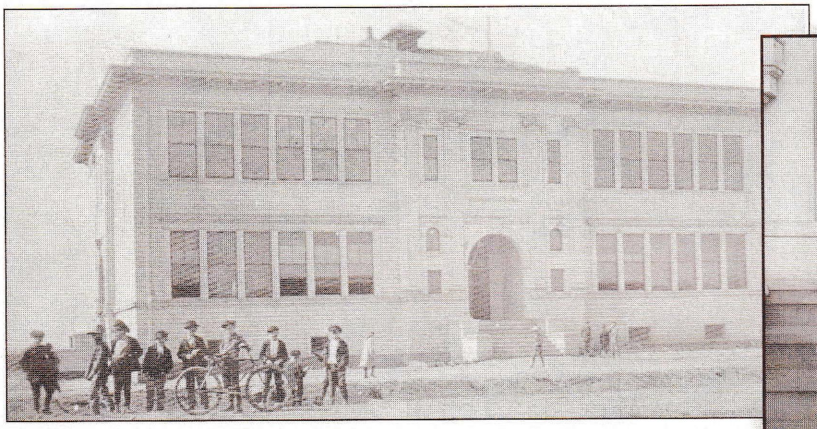

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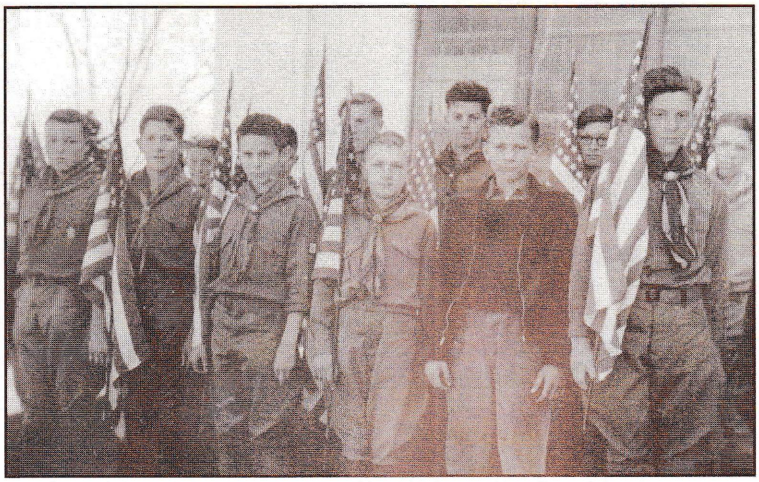
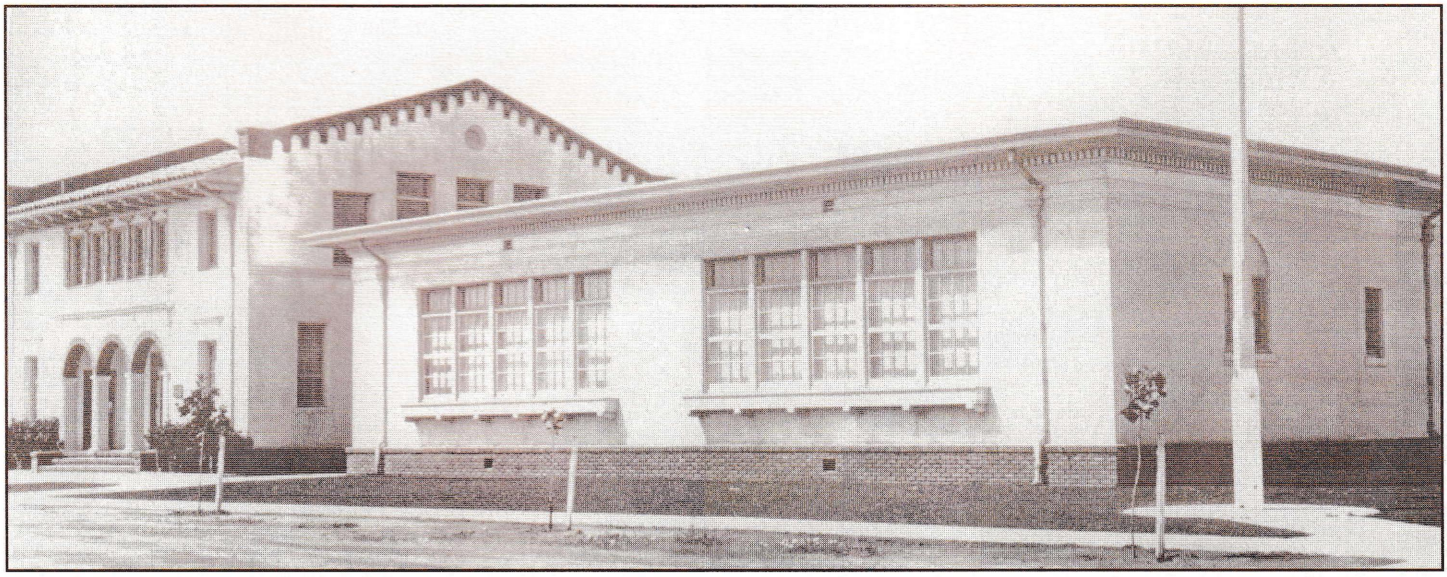
▲ *A Basketball at Needham School, 1938-39. From left: Priest, Condon, Lary Phieffer, Plinas, and Randolph.*

▲ *B Basketball at Needham School, 1938-39. From left: Kramer, Ernst, Triebwasser, Polenske, Boese, and Henning.*



Needham School Boy Scouts, 1938-39. Among them are Wade Dozier, Jim Fitzsimmons, and Kettelman. ▲

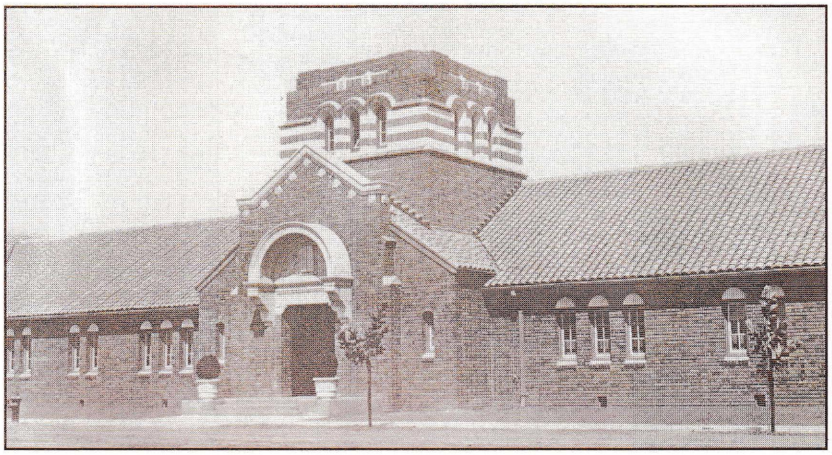
Needham School, Class of 1947. ▲



Needham School. ▲

GARFIELD SCHOOL

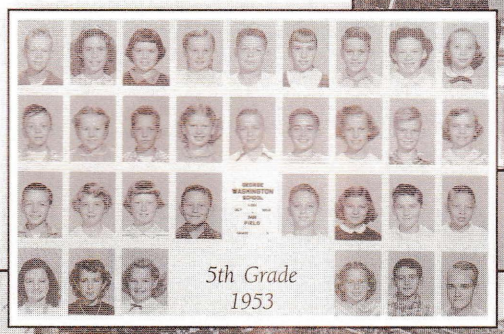
Garfield School, a 10 classroom brick structure, was located at Garfield and Flora Streets and was considered to be the latest in educational and architectural design in 1923. Garfield School provided education for Kindergarten through sixth grade students with a staff of eleven.



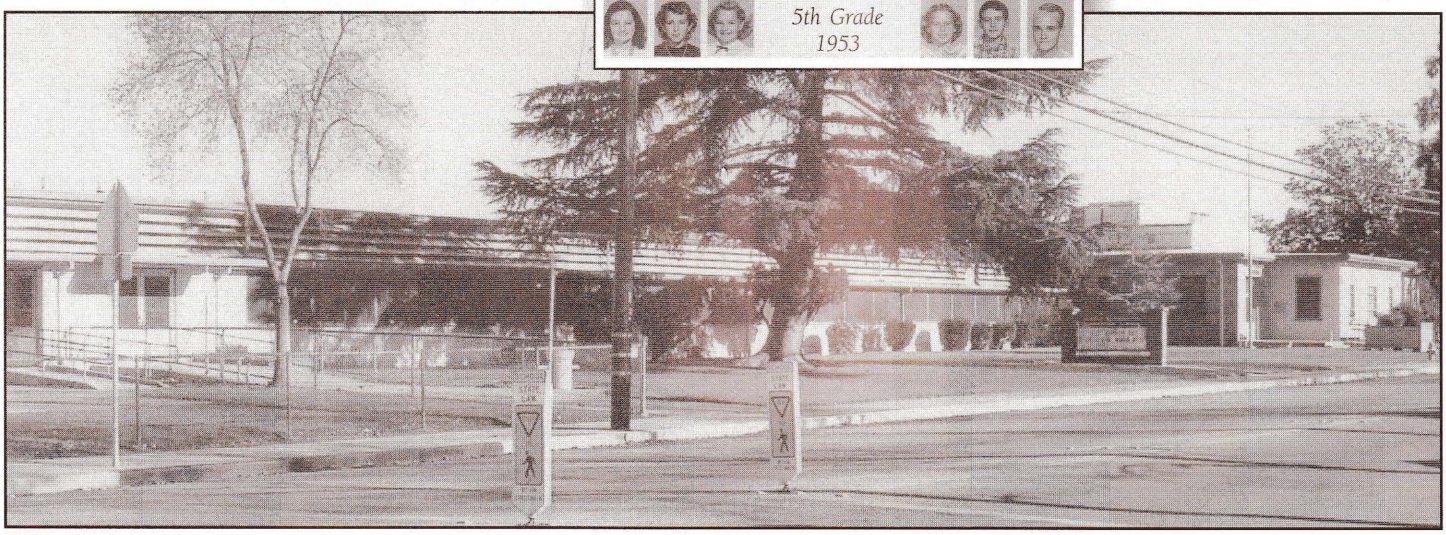
GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL

George Washington School was completed in 1950 as a replacement for the wood two-story Emerson School which was long considered unsafe. Washington School is located at 831 W. Lockeford Street. It originally had 11 classrooms for grades Kindergarten thru six. Within six years a new wing was added containing seven new classrooms thus employing 19 teachers.

George Washington School, ▲ cornerstone laying in 1950. "Pop" Smith on right.



5th Grade 1953



▲ *George Washington School, December 2008.*

Photo courtesy of Cletus Roth.

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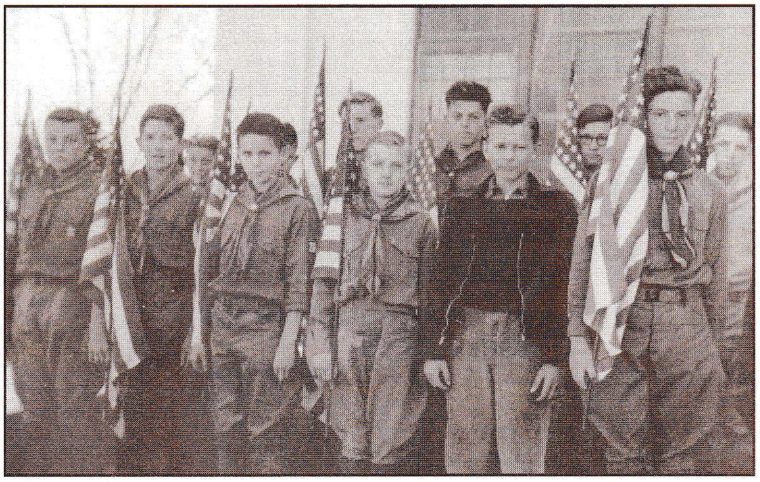

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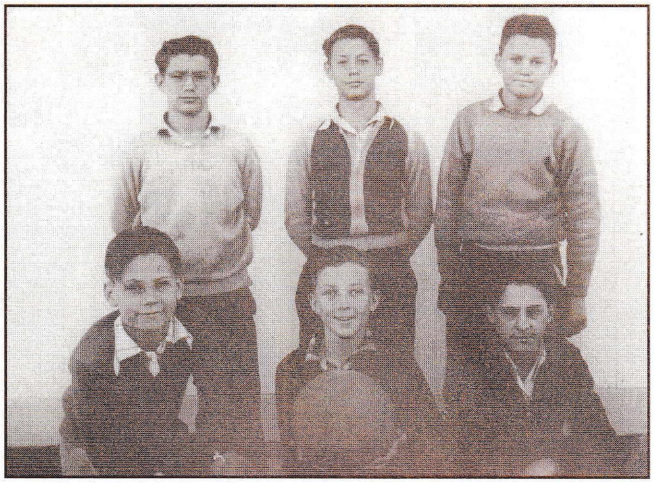

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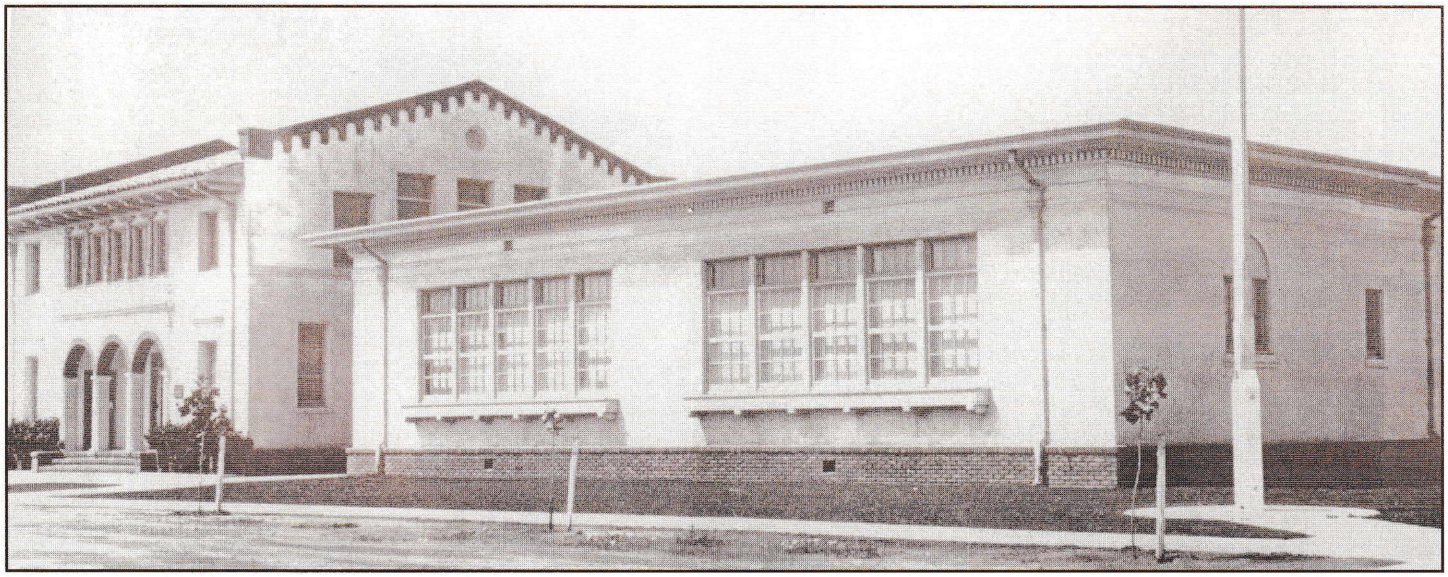

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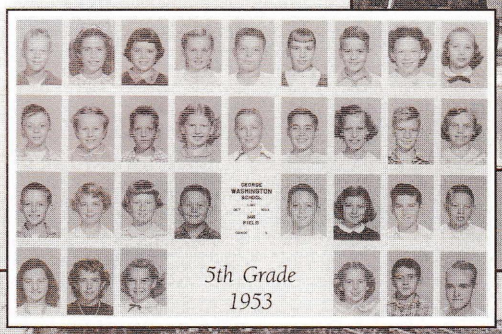

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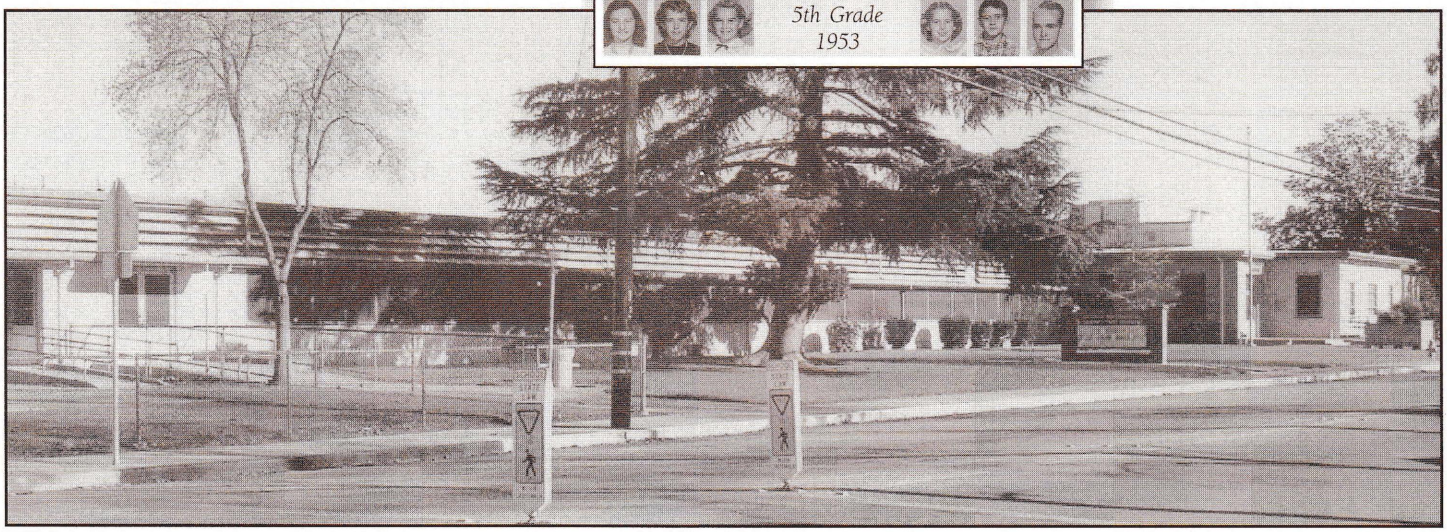
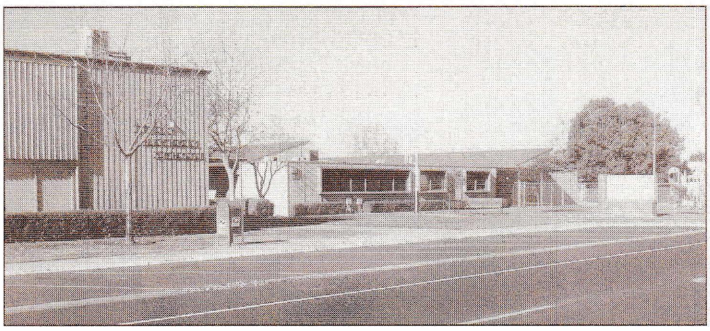


▲ *George Washington School, December 2008.*

Photo courtesy of Cletus Roth.

LEROY NICHOLS SCHOOL

Leroy Nichols School, named for a retired district superintendent, was built on a 12 acre site on Crescent Street just north of Kettleman Lane in 1955. The original 7 room school cost $90,000 to complete. To date Nichols has 30 classrooms for grades K-6.



LAKEWOOD SCHOOL

In 1963 Lakewood School opened at Ham Lane and Turner Road with 21 classrooms situated in four frame and stucco wings housing Kindergarten thru grade six.

All photos on this page courtesy of Cletus Roth.

ERMA B. REESE SCHOOL

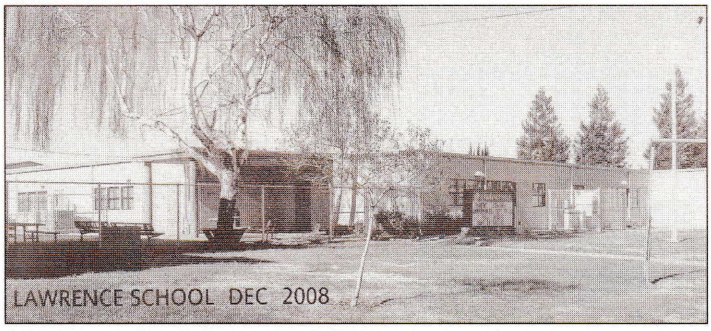
Erma B. Reese School is located at 1800 West Elm and was built on a 10 acre site. Reese opened in the fall of 1958 for grades K-6. It was named for Mrs. Reese a principal of Woods School from 1929-1947.

LODI SENIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On January 4, 1965, the Lodi Senior Elementary School complex opened with 22 classrooms. The building is located at 945 South Ham Lane. Within three years, nine more rooms were added to house the students consisting entirely of seventh and eighth graders.

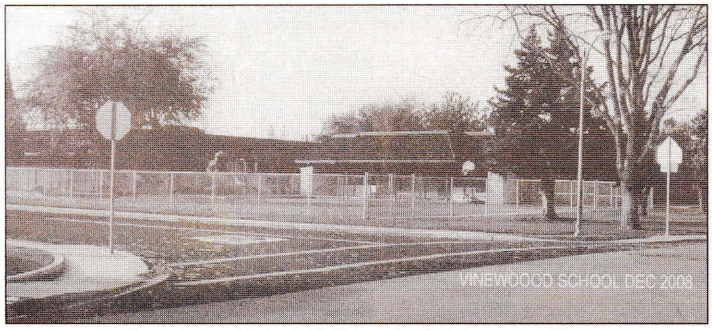
LAWRENCE SCHOOL

Lawrence School was named for the pioneer family who originally owned the property of the school site. Lawrence School is located at 721 Calaveras Street and opened in 1960. It originally had one wing of seven classrooms and a separate building for Kindergarten.



VINEWOOD SCHOOL

Vinewood School, located at 1600 West Tokay Street, opened with eight classrooms and two multi-use rooms in 1966. The number of rooms has doubled since its opening. It houses Kindergarten thru sixth grade students.



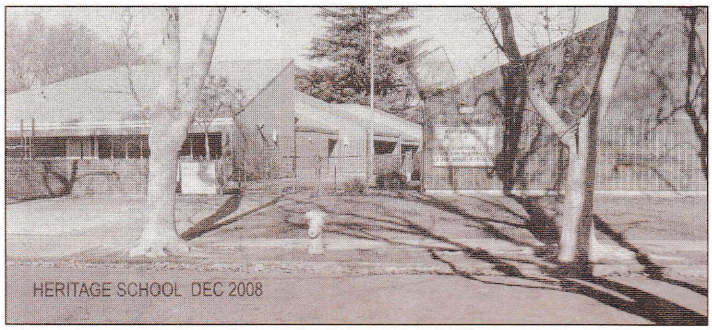
Heritage School

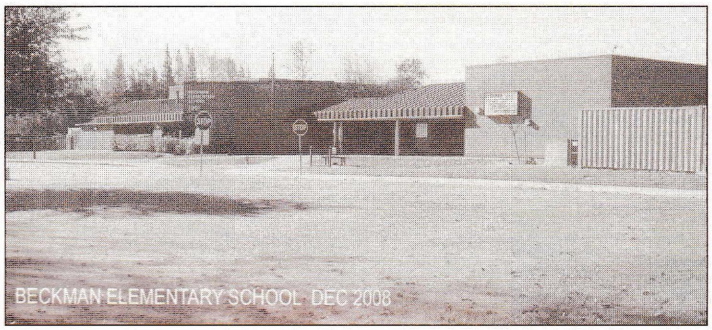
Heritage School is located on the old Garfield School site at 509 Eden Street and was opened in 1977. It was named to honor all Lodi citizens who had made significant community and school contributions. Eden Street was closed east of Garfield Street to enable the school to be at this location.

Beckman School

Beckman Elementary School was opened in September of 1990 at a cost of $3.76 million. The school boasted twenty standard classrooms and two kindergarten rooms. It was named for a prominent Lodi family and is located at 2201 Scarborough Drive.

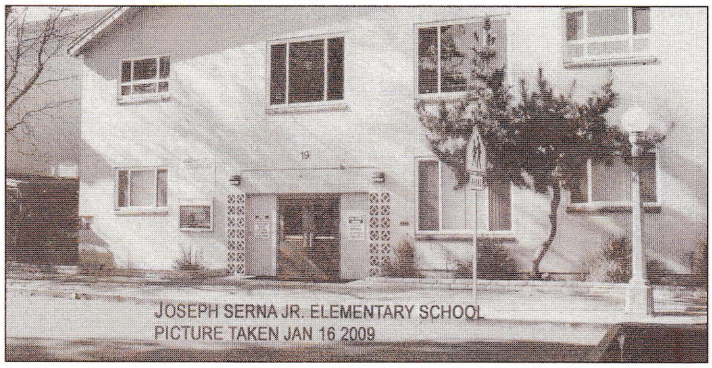
All photos on this page courtesy of Cletus Roth.





Joe Serna Charter School

The Joe Serna Charter School is located at 19 South Central Ave. on the 1.9 acre site of a relocated Baptist Church. It opened in 2000.

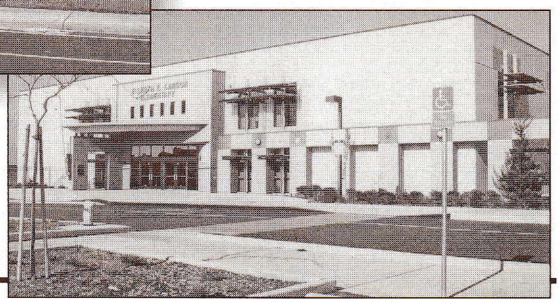


Lois Borchardt School
Millswood Middle School
Ellerth Larson Elementary School

The three latest schools to open are: Lois Borchardt School located at 375 Culbertson Dr., housing K-6 students, Millswood Middle School located at 233 North Mills Avenue just north of Elm Street housing seventh and eighth grade students and Ellerth Larson Elementary School located at 2375 Giannoni Way, using the same building plan as Borchardt School. The first class took place in September 2005.

▲ *Lois E. Borchardt Elementary School*

▲ *Millswood Middle School, opened 2004.*



Ellerth E. Larson Elementary School, opened 2005. ▶

The Lodi Historian
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Editor Ralph Lea

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